

Just the Facts

State Fiscal Year 2005



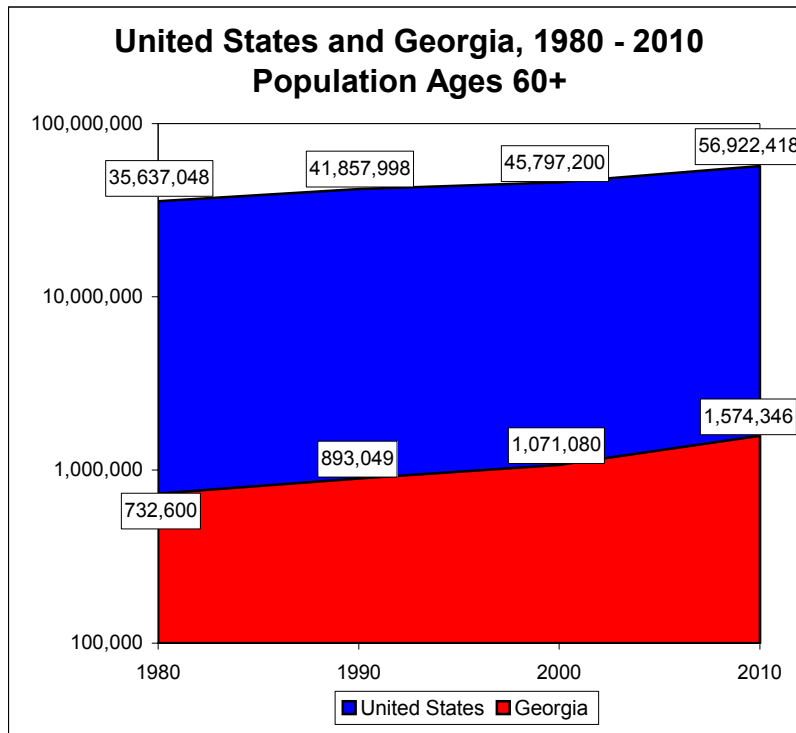
Division of Aging Services
Maria Greene, Director

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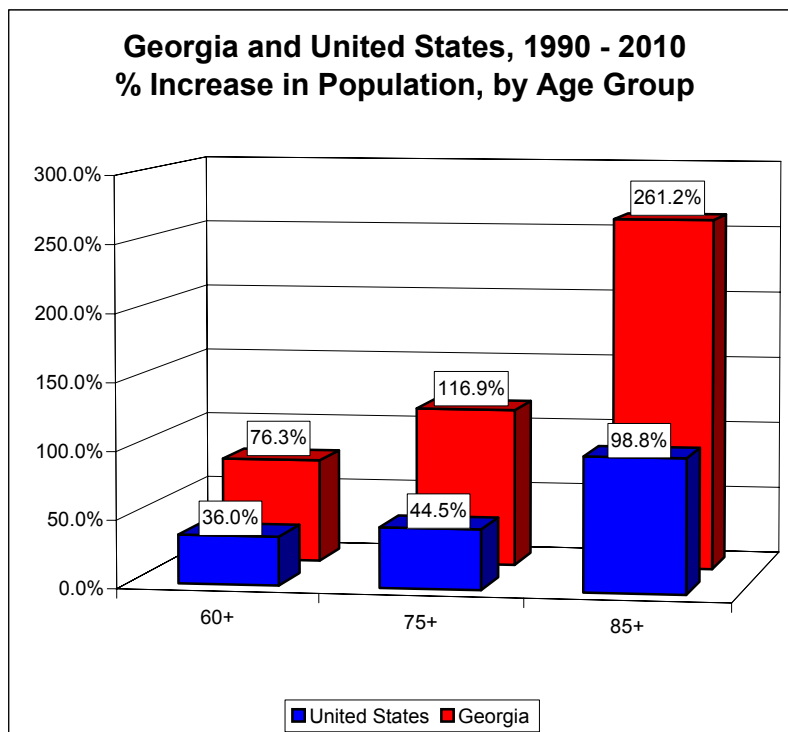
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Aging Trends in Georgia

GA DHR- Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network



- The aging of our population is one of the most significant trends affecting our society today.
- Georgia has the tenth fastest growing 60+ population and the tenth fastest growing 85+ population in the United States.
- Georgia's population ages 60 and above is expected to increase 76.3% between 1990 and 2010, from 893,049 persons to 1,574,346 persons.



- Georgia's population ages 85 and above is expected to increase 261.2% from 1990 to 2010. Those 85 and above are by far the fastest growing group, projected to total 206,726 in 2010.
- During the 20th century, the number of Georgians age 60 and above increased ten-fold, compared to a four-fold growth in the population overall.

Data compiled from the US 2000 Census
GA DHR - Division of Aging Services

Demographics SFY 05

Adult Protective Services Program

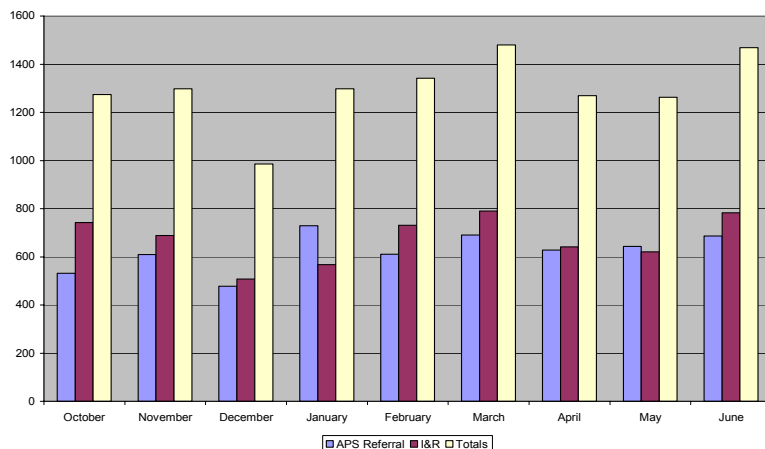
GA DHR-Division of Aging Services

The Adult Protective Services (APS) program is mandated under the Disabled Adults and Elder Persons Protection Act to address situations of domestic abuse, neglect or exploitation of disabled persons over the age of 18, or elders over the age of 65 who are not residents of long term care facilities. The purpose of the APS program is to investigate reports alleging abuse, neglect or exploitation and to prevent recurrence through the provision of protective services intervention. Principles that guide the assessment consider an adult's right to personal autonomy, self-determination and the use of the least restrictive method of providing safety prior to more intrusive methods.

Centralized Intake

The APS Program receives reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation through its Centralized Intake Unit. Agents handle calls through a statewide toll-free number to determine if the referrals meet the criteria for APS to investigate a case. If the criteria are not met, referrals are made to community resources including those in the aging network.

APS Centralized Intake Calls - October, 04 - June, 05

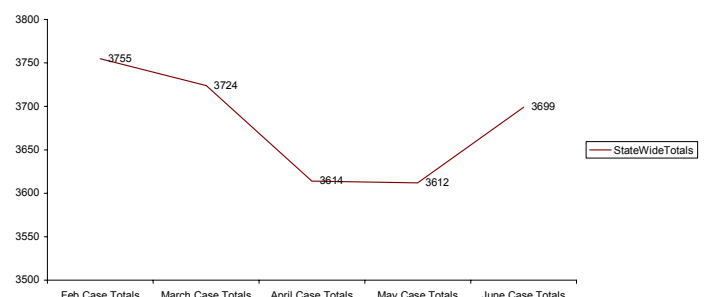


From October, 2004 – June, 2005, Centralized Intake handled a total of 11,673 calls. Forty-eight percent (5,604) of calls were accepted for APS investigation. The remaining 52% (6,069) were handled by staff or referred to other community resources such as mental health providers, DFCS and others to help address the caller's issues.

APS Field Operations

Adult Protective Services uses a regional-based multi-disciplinary approach to meet the needs of vulnerable disabled and senior adults in the State of Georgia. APS regions are aligned with the aging network planning and service areas and reside in five districts. 155 APS case managers handle both investigations and case management services statewide.

APS Comparison of Monthly Case Totals Feb to June 2005



APS Case Totals

APS averaged a total of 3,680 investigations per month from February – June, 2005 with an average caseload of 23 cases per APS case manager, slightly below the national recommended average caseload of 25 (National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators). New investigations comprise approximately 16% of the total monthly caseload.

APS Guardianships

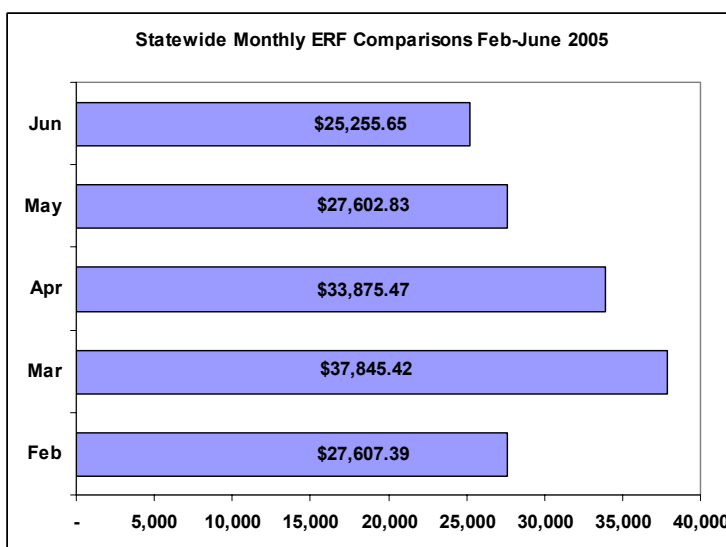
APS provides case management for the incapacitated adults for whom the Department of Human Resources serves as Guardian of Person. APS continues to manage approximately 700 guardianships per month.

APS Emergency Relocation Funds

The APS program receives \$400,000 each year from the legislature to provide emergency relocation services to individuals who need relocation from an abusive situation.

Emergency relocation funds pay for victims to move from unsafe housing, replacement of personal items when they have been broken or stolen by an abuser as well as items to keep them safe in their homes.

Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments



Transitioned Georgia's Adult Protective Services Program from DFCS to DAS – July, 2004

APS developed and implemented a regional-based service delivery model with APS specialized staff to improve response and intervention in situations of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation. At the front door of the program is a toll-free Central Intake Unit that receives and distributes all reports. The APS Section within DAS provides program administration, development, training, oversight and advocacy.

DAS has enhanced the APS workforce mobility, communications and safety by equipping APS staff with cell phones and tablets. These work tools provide workers increased capability to locate and mobilize resources for clients, real-time direct communications with collateral contacts, supervisors, and emergency services, reduced time and travel expenses.

Completed a DHR Memorandum of Understanding on Adult Abuse

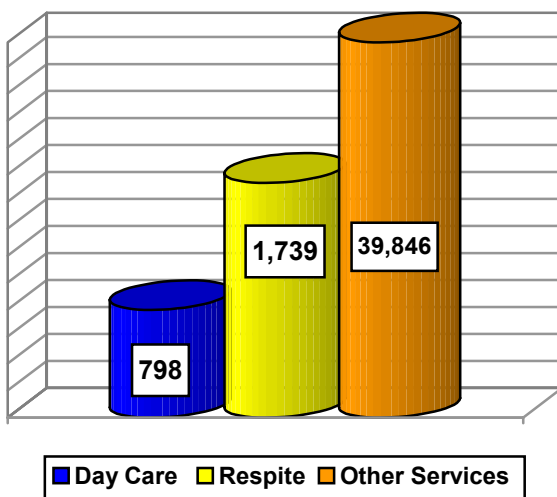
This multi-agency agreement provides protocols and coordination for DHR entities involved with investigations and interventions of situations where disabled adults and elder persons are alleged to be victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation in long-term care facilities, state facilities and community settings.

Caregiver Programs and Services

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

Georgia's aging network continues to expand the array of services needed to support family caregivers. During SFY 2005, these services included adult day care, respite, and other support services including self-determination, a growing trend in long-term care services for older adults. The Self-Determination Program is particularly helpful in rural areas, since it enables caregivers to hire neighbors or friends to provide some of the services they need.

Persons Served



A total of 798 family caregivers received adult day care services and 1,739 family caregivers received temporary relief from their care giving responsibilities through respite by Georgia's aging network during SFY 2005. The 39,846 persons (duplicated count) received other individual and group support services, which are listed below.

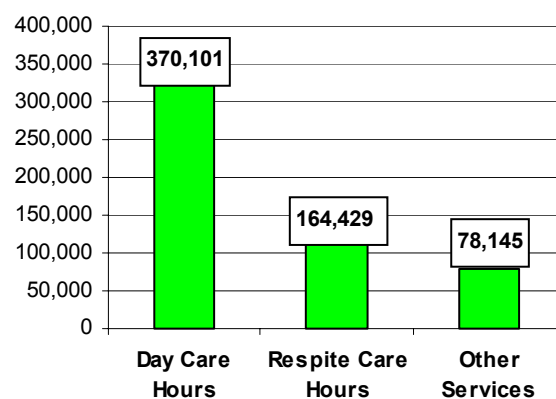
- ✓ Case Management
- ✓ Community/Public Education
- ✓ Counseling
- ✓ Homemaker/Personal Care
- ✓ Information and Assistance
- ✓ Material Aid
- ✓ Self-Determination Services

Services Provided

Adult Day Care - 370,101 hours of health services, personal care and therapeutic activities in a day center.

Respite Care - short-term relief to the caregiver in the client's home accounted for 164,429 hours of service.

Other Services – provided caregivers with information and assistance, education and training, homemaker services, case management, counseling and self-determination services that accounts for 78,145 units of service.



Success Stories

Mr. P. is the primary caregiver for his mother who has Alzheimer's disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes. They live in Northwest Georgia. Mr. P was under considerable stress and lost a sizeable amount of weight. Through counseling his entire countenance changed; for the first time he knew he was not alone. He has received help through education about Alzheimer's disease, and information regarding local resources from the Area Agency on Aging and service providers. Now Mr. P. has a working phone in the home, has been referred to a local resource for incontinence items for his mother, and is now receiving extra food through a local food ministry program. He and his mother will be eligible for the heating assistance program this year, and they will not go without heat as they have in the past.

An 85 year old caregiver was referred to the Central Savannah River Area Agency on Aging by a friend when she could no longer attend social functions. She was caring for her daughter, disabled by a stroke, and her son-in-law, who has multiple medical problems. Through the Family Caregiver Program, Ms. B was referred for homebound counseling, and now receives Home Delivered Meals, Personal Care, and Respite Care so that she can have a break from her 24 hour a day caregiving responsibilities.

Accomplishments

Caregiver specialists with the Division of Aging Services have been appointed to a National Advisory Committee for the School of Social Welfare at the University of Wisconsin. They will assist providers and policy makers from other states to develop protocols for care managers that will more effectively and efficiently target services to assist family caregivers.

Georgia's mobile day care program, an innovative service delivery model which enables rural communities to have day care by sharing staff that travel between locations:

- has been replicated by the Louisiana Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. The demand for the program and its sustained enrollment demonstrates that it can be successfully replicated in other states and regions.
- was recognized by the Archstone Foundation and the Gerontological Health Section of the American Public Health Association with one of its 2005 Awards of Excellence in Program Innovation.
- was featured in *Rural Healthy 2010*, a best practices document funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy and developed by Texas A & M University.

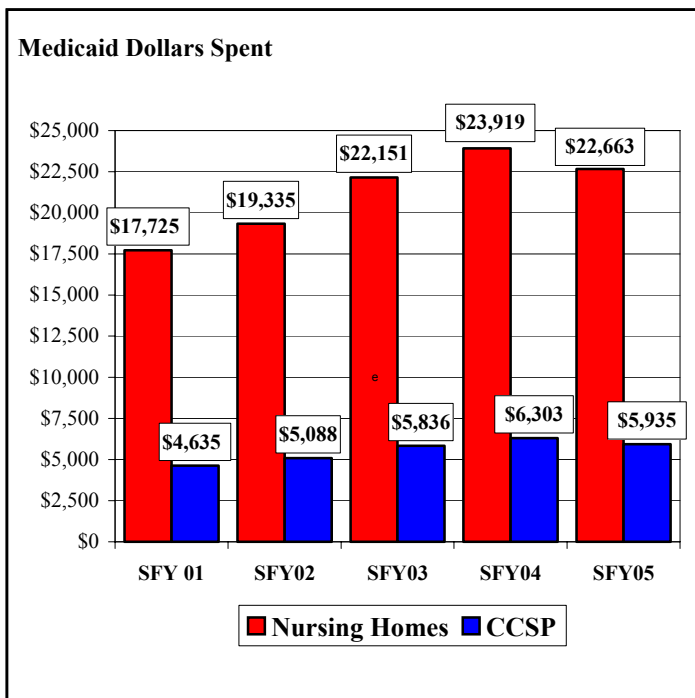
Self determination programs enable caregivers to hire relatives and friends. In 2005, the Division's pilot program:

- was featured in *Promising Practices in the Field of Caregiving*, published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging.
- developed a guidebook, available @ aging.dhr.georgia.gov, to assist other states who are interested in replication.

Community Care Services Program (CCSP)

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

The Community Care Services Program (CCSP) has successfully served eligible consumers in Georgia for over twenty years. By providing home and community-based Medicaid services to nursing home eligible consumers, the CCSP gives consumers the choice of remaining in the community.



Ninety-two percent of consumers given the option chose CCSP over nursing home placement.

Dollars Saved

CCSP saved taxpayers \$16,728 per individual served in SFY 2005.

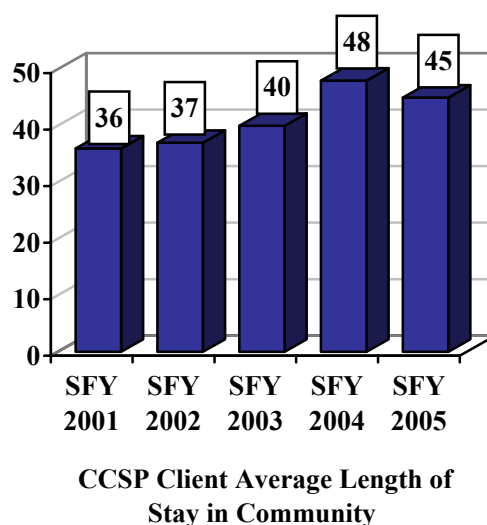
Georgia taxpayers saved over \$264 million in SFY 2005 through this program.

In SFY 2005 the CCSP helped keep 15,836 Georgians out of more costly nursing facilities.

Consumers Served

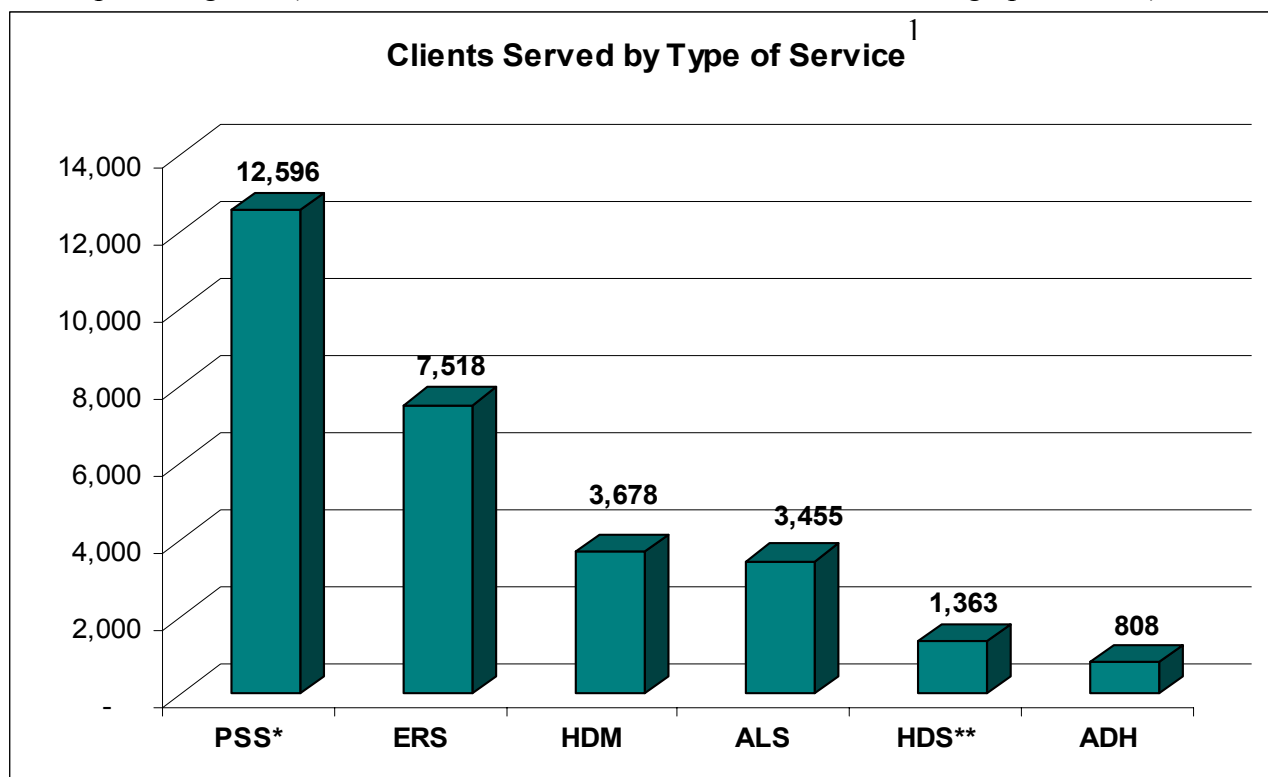
Fifty-five percent of CCSP clients were 75 years of age or older; 28% were 85 or older, and clients 100 years of age or older in SFY 2005 totaled 184. Nineteen percent were under 60 years of age.

In SFY 2005, effective care coordination allowed clients' needs to be met so that they remained in the community nearly four additional years (45 months).



CCSP Services

- ✓ Adult Day Health (**ADH**) – health, therapeutic and support services in a day center
- ✓ Alternative Living Services (**ALS**) – 24-hour personal care, health-related support services and nursing supervision in a licensed personal care home
- ✓ Emergency Response Services (**ERS**) – 24-hour electronic medical communication support system
- ✓ Home Delivered Meals (**HDM**) – meal delivery services
- ✓ Home Delivered Services (**HDS**) – skilled nursing services and personal support in client's home
- ✓ Personal Support Services (**PSS**) – personal care, support, and respite services in client's home
- ✓ Out-of-Home Respite Care (**OHRC**) – temporary relief for the individual(s) normally providing care (service numbers are included in the PSS total in the graphic below).



*PSS Client count includes Out-of-Home Respite Care.

**HDS Client Count includes Skilled Nursing Services.

¹ Duplicated client count, clients may receive more than one service.

Seventy-nine percent of CCSP clients use Personal Support Services. The service accounts for 77% of total CCSP expenditures. Alternative Living Services ranks second in expenditures (12%). Forty-seven percent of CCSP clients use the cost-effective Emergency Response Services (accounting for 2% of CCSP Medicaid expenditures).

GA DHR - Division of Aging Services

Community Care Services Program SFY 2005

Elder Abuse and Consumer Fraud Prevention Program

and Senior Adult Victims' Advocate (SAVA)

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services

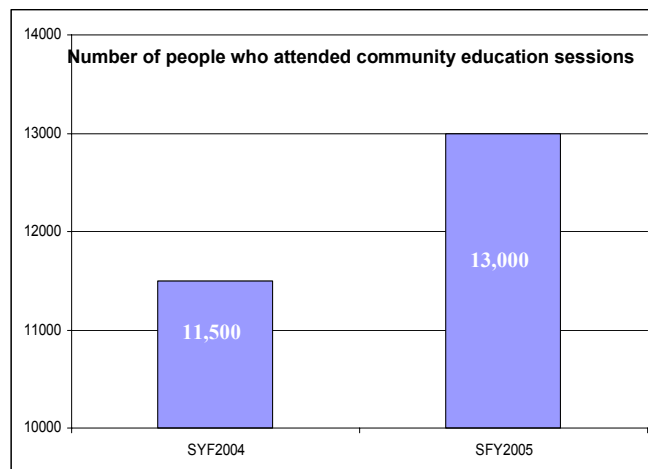
Elder Abuse and Prevention provides services to identify, prevent and treat elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Program goals are to heighten awareness of abuse of older individuals in community settings and facilitate access to programs and services for victims.

The SAVA program assists victims of elder abuse in eliminating or mitigating the abuse, in negotiating through the criminal justice system when they are crime victims, and in obtaining the social services they need to become safer and to improve the quality of their lives.

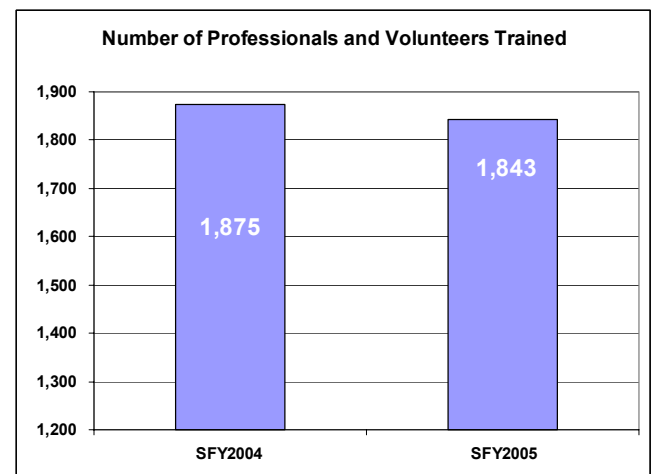
Program Accomplishments

SFY 2005 for the state office and the twelve Area Agencies on Aging, Elder Abuse Providers:

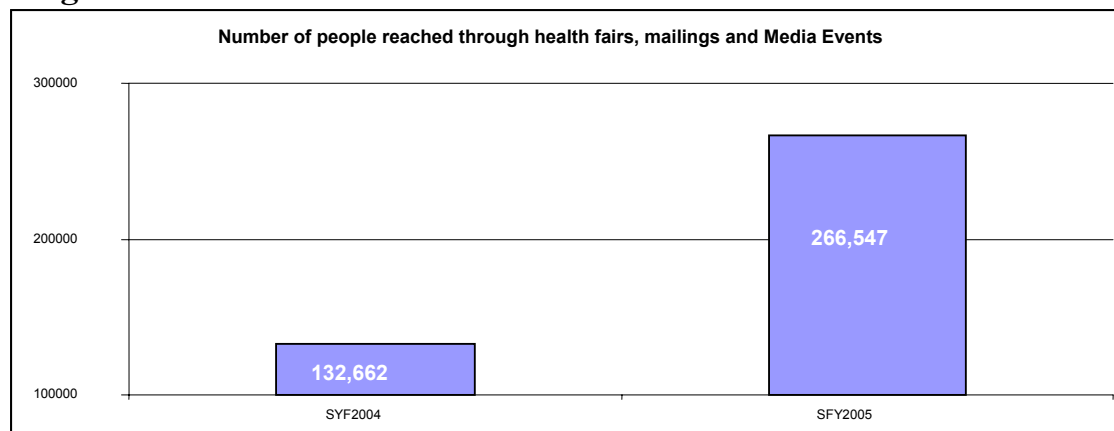
Community Education



Training



Program Awareness



Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

In SFY05, SAVA:

- Worked with 63 victims of crime utilizing 360 volunteer hours
- Created a new elder abuse prevention brochure
- Created a new elder abuse resource guide for professionals
- Partnered with Meals on Wheels, Seniors and Lawmen Together (S.A.L.T.) councils, caregivers, law enforcement, pharmacists, nurses, physicians and many more to prevent elder abuse.

SAVA's Impact

- A SAVA client was disabled and lived in a high crime neighborhood. She had been robbed several times in that neighborhood, probably because she was obviously disabled and thus a target for drug addicts. SAVA assisted the client to move to a safer neighborhood and provided counseling about safety planning. As a result, the client can sit on the porch, talk to neighbors, and move freely around the neighborhood without fear of being a crime victim.
- A SAVA client went to the bank to cash his social security check. He was robbed on the way out of the bank. As a result, he could not pay his rent. Although he explained the situation to his landlord, the landlord was planning an eviction. SAVA contacted a local non-profit organization that agreed to give him a grant to cover the rent, which saved him from eviction.
- A SAVA client was the victim of domestic violence for thirty years. The client had recently been diagnosed with a terminal illness. His children were concerned about his wellbeing and safety during his last months. SAVA discussed several options with the children on how to protect the client. Because of the client's diminished capacity, the children petitioned the court for guardianship. Guardianship was granted and the children moved the client into their home. The client was able to spend the last few months of his life in peace and safety.

Elderly Legal Assistance Program

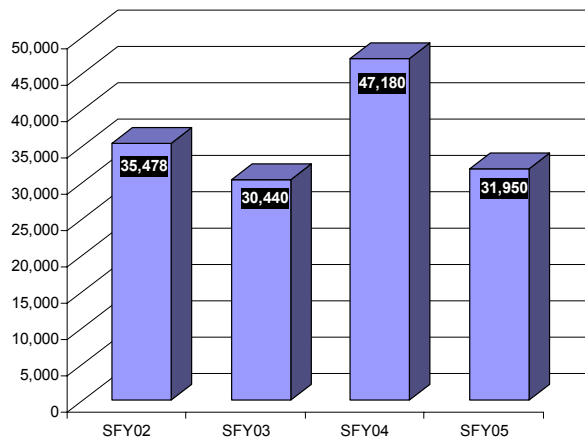
GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

The Georgia Elderly Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) serves persons 60 years of age and older by providing legal representation, information and education in civil legal matters throughout the state of Georgia.

Persons Served

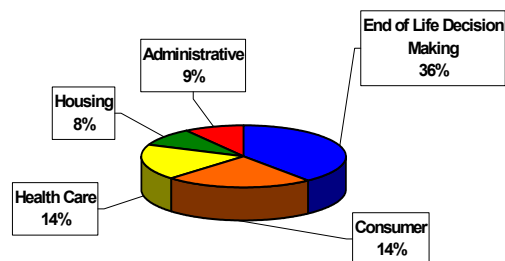
ELAP served 31,950 seniors in SFY2005.

After the Adult Medically Needy Program ended effective September 2004, many ELAP providers worked under an “emergency service” mandate in order to assist as many affected residents as possible. In so doing, their ability to resume normal client intake and community education schedules was restricted, resulting in the first quarter of SFY 2005 having reduced numbers. Closer to the termination date, the more complex the cases became. Attorneys worked on creating Qualified Income Trust (QIT) otherwise known as “Millers Trusts.” Clients found to have diminished or impaired capacities required the appointment of Guardians of Property, if no Power of Attorney was in place.



Primary Case Types -SFY 2005

SFY 2005 Top Five Primary Case Types



End of life planning and consumer issues represented 50% of all cases handled.

In SFY 2005 ELAP saved older Georgians \$2,980,672.00 by providing document preparation, legal counseling and case representation.

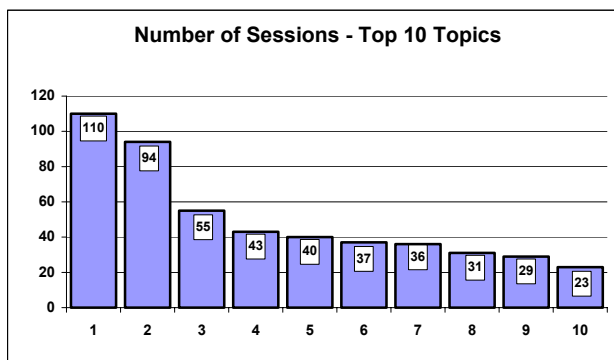
Consumer – Fraud, Contracts, Debt Relief
Health Care – Medicare, Medicaid, Nursing Home & Personal Care Home Issues
End of Life Decisions – Financial & Health Care Power of Attorney, Living Wills
Administrative – Social Security, Food Stamps, Disability
Housing – Homeowner, Public Housing & Landlord Tenant

ELAP Community Education Offered

Community education is a method of prevention that helps seniors avoid more costly, time consuming legal problems. In FY 2005 23,413 seniors attended 798 legal education sessions conducted by the Georgia Elderly Legal Assistance Program.

The top ten topics covered in community education sessions in SFY 2005 were:

1. Medicaid Estate Recovery
2. Elder Abuse/ Fraud Prevention
3. Medicaid
4. Wills & Estates
5. Adult Medically Needy Changes
6. ELAP
7. Consumer Issues
8. Medicare Part D
9. Public Benefits
10. General Senior Issues



Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

A 70-yr-old client was denied Social Security widow's benefits on her husband's record. She was currently receiving benefits on an account of another alleged spouse to whom she was never married. ELAP provided relevant documentation to Social Security Administration to get the client's record changed. She was awarded benefits on her husband's record and received \$15,710 in back benefits.

A 69-yr-old client who was not competent sought assistance because the personal care home that she was living in was evicting her. Employees of the personal care home had left the client in her wheel chair on an ant bed and she received dozens of bites. Her husband sued the personal care home and they started the process to evict her after the suit. ELAP represented the client in the eviction case with the personal care home. Because of the home's negligence, her husband wanted to move her to a new one but needed time. ELAP appealed the eviction and negotiated with the personal care home's attorneys for time in order for her to move.

A 72-yr-old woman's daughter used her power of attorney to withdraw her mother's savings and move to Minnesota. ELAP represented the mother and was able to settle without litigation to have \$27,00 returned to the client.

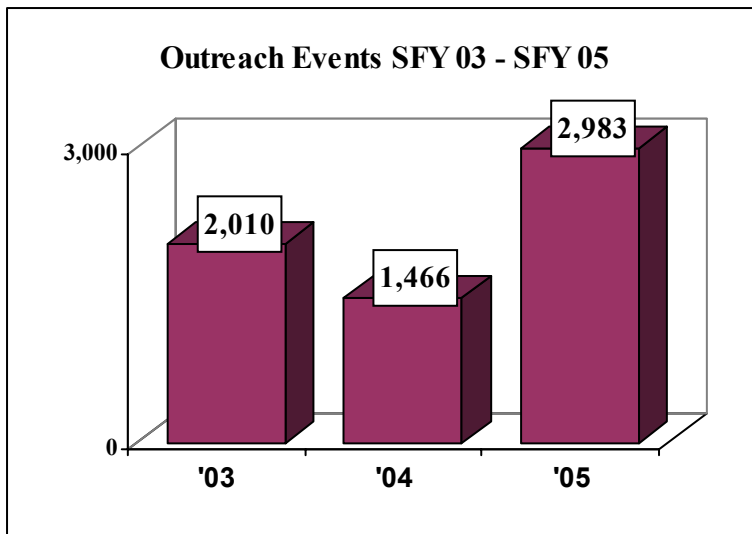
A 76-yr-old man had his bank account frozen by a loan company, which was going to begin garnishment. ELAP was able to get his account unfrozen and his and his wife's \$1400 in social security income returned to them.

GeorgiaCares

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

GeorgiaCares helps Georgia's Medicare beneficiaries, their families and others understand their rights, benefits and services under the Medicare program and other health insurance options.

Outreach and Media Events



In State Fiscal Year 2005, GeorgiaCares conducted a total of 2462 outreach and 521 media events to 3,607,587 individuals regarding health insurance information on Medicare, Medicaid, prescription assistance, Medigap, other health insurance needs and Medicare fraud prevention.

548 trained volunteers served clients in SFY 2005.

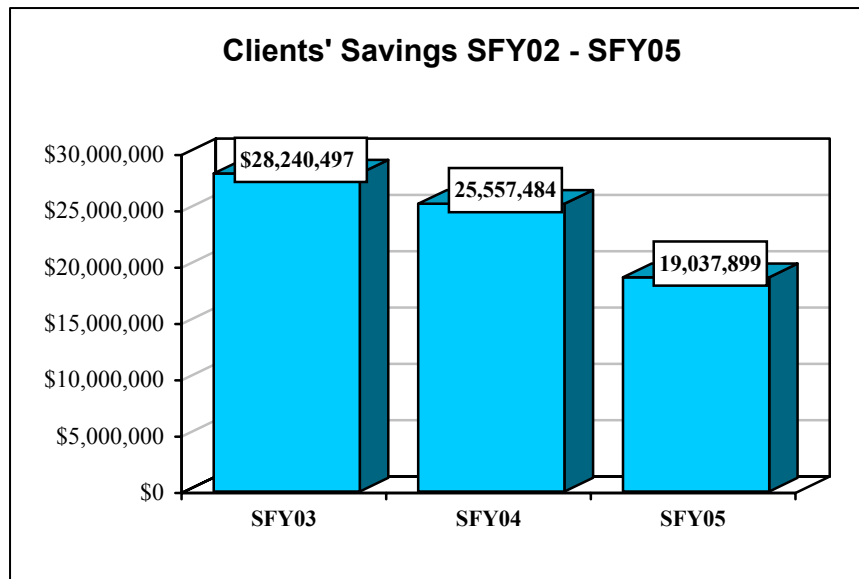
A total of 13,996 clients were served.

Reducing “Out-of-Pocket” Costs

Over the last three years, GeorgiaCares has enabled clients to save more than \$72 million in health insurance and related expenses.

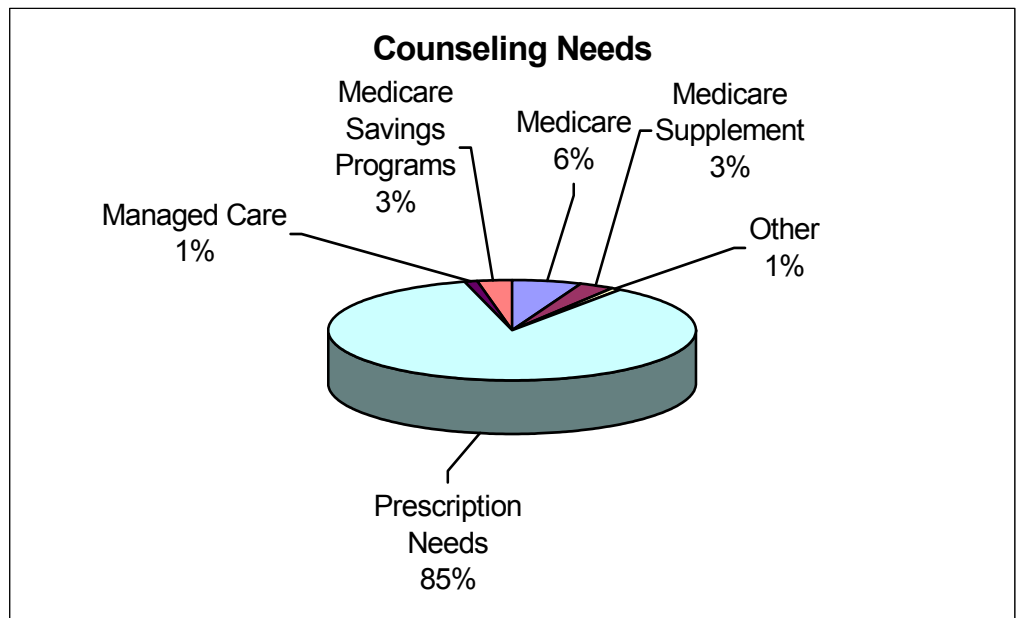
In SFY 2005, GeorgiaCares saved beneficiaries \$19,037,899 in out-of-pocket expenses.

Enrollment in discount drug cards slowed in SFY2005 resulting in lower financial savings for clients in this fiscal year. The discount drug card program ended effective January 1, 2006 when Medicare Part D benefits began.



Types of Issues Addressed by GeorgiaCares

In SFY 2005, 85% of GeorgiaCares calls dealt with Medicare beneficiaries needing prescription assistance.



Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

- ✓ During State Fiscal Year 2005, GeorgiaCares volunteers saved Medicare beneficiaries over \$19 million.
- ✓ GeorgiaCares partnerships were expanded to a total of 72.
- ✓ In May, Older Americans Month, GeorgiaCares sponsored 24 statewide events branded as “Service2Seniors” for over 9,000 Georgians.
- ✓ GeorgiaCares was awarded its 3rd Administration on Aging Senior Medicare Patrol Grant.
- ✓ Best Practice Award was presented to GeorgiaCares at the Alabama Resource Development Symposium.
- ✓ New GeorgiaCares Standards.
- ✓ GeorgiaCares begins the Governor’s Lifelong Planning programs to educate Georgians on ways to prepare for their long life.

Challenges for the Future

GeorgiaCares will continue a large scale outreach campaign geared toward educating Medicare beneficiaries. The campaign will focus on the new Medicare Prescription Drug Part D and fraud prevention.

Home and Community Based Services

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

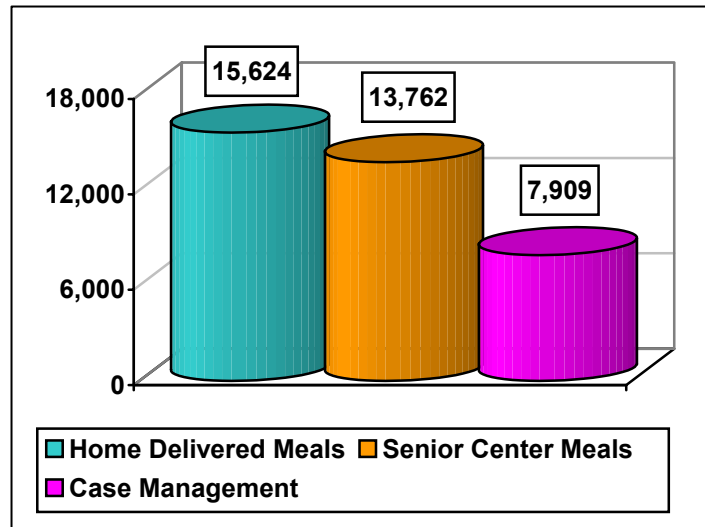
Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provides individual and group services to support and assist older Georgians in staying in their homes and communities. These services promote health, self-sufficiency and independence.

Persons Served

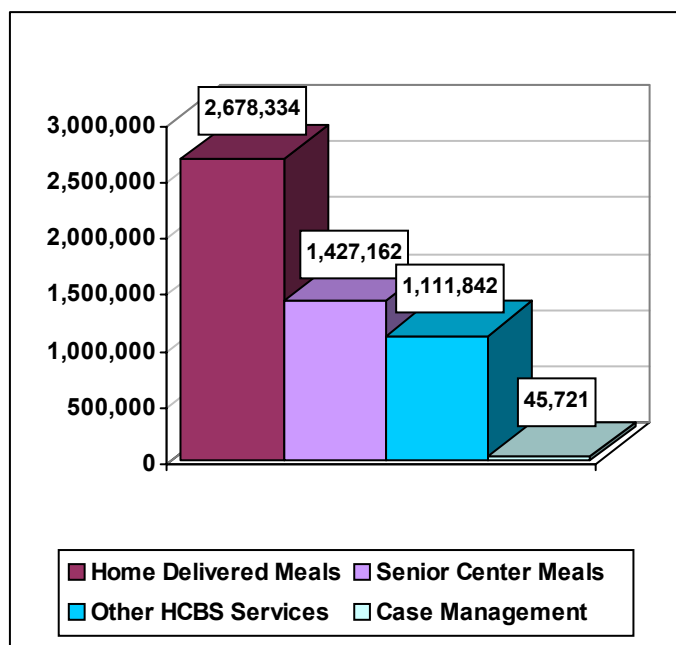
In SFY 2005, 36,086 older Georgians were provided one or more HCBS services, responding to their strong preference for receiving care in their own homes and, in some cases, allowing them to take greater charge of managing the services they receive. Other offered group services were received by 457,706 clients (duplicated count).

In fact, the services that keep persons with chronic conditions independent as long as possible are frequently those that emphasize assistance and caring, not curing.

Persons Served in Primary Services



SFY 2005



Home Delivered Meals – Served 2,678,334 meals to 15,624 older Georgians.

Senior Center Meals – Served 1,427,162 meals to 13,762 Georgians.

Other HCBS Services – Includes 20 other individual and group services such as homemaker, personal care, transportation, information and assistance, material aid, and other services based on local need.

Case Management- Provided 45,721 hours of case management to 7,909 persons. HCBS Case Management is provided by only 4 out of 12 Area Agencies on Aging.

Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

- Completion of the Gateway System work team's report and recommendations for a standardized process for intake, screening and information and assistance through the Gateway system and revision of the DAS Policy Manual to incorporate the recommendations into state policies.
- Development and implementation of statewide services, focusing on wellness and caregiver support services, with a particular emphasis on working with grandparents rearing grandchildren.
- Ongoing work of the Area Plan Work Team on a new Area Plan format and Request for Proposal process improvements for the next Area Plan cycle.
- Development by Uniform Cost Methodology Work Team of a new, simplified spreadsheet and recommendations for improvements to be implemented in 2006.
- Completion of the first year of the three year AoA/CMS Aging and Disabilities Resource Center grant activities.

Challenges for the Future

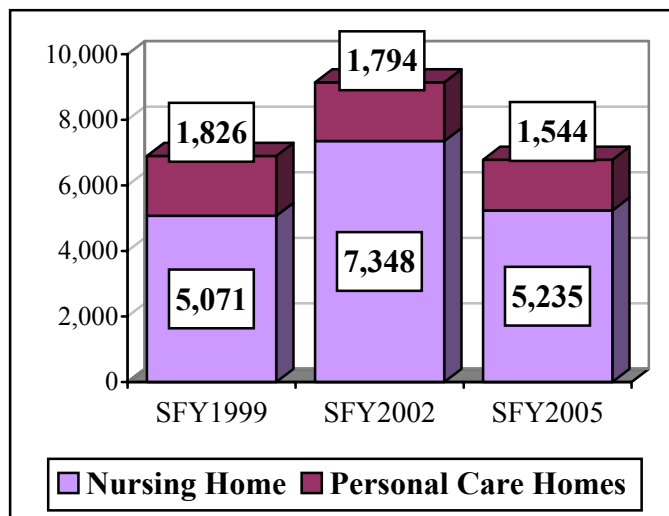
- ✓ Continued shortages in availability of transportation services, combined with increased fuel and other operating costs, resulting in limited or reduced access to needed home and community-based services.
- ✓ The ongoing need for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, consumer-focused case management system for HCBS consumers statewide, to assure quality of service delivery and optimal benefits to consumers.
- ✓ The need to set priorities for and adjust plans for technology development and ongoing support for the statewide aging network, including assuring access to up-to-date hardware, software and connectivity devices.
- ✓ The need for further improvement of the Area Agency Gateway processes and operations.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program works to improve the quality of life of residents in nursing homes and personal care homes by acting as their independent advocate. Ombudsman staff and volunteers informally investigate and resolve complaints on behalf of residents.

Complaints Handled



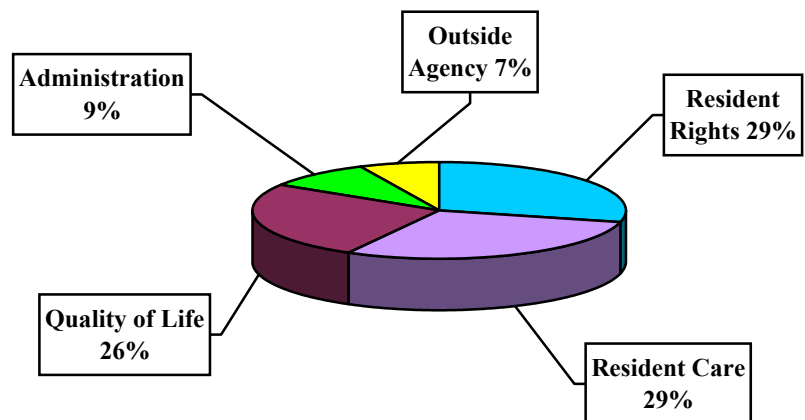
In SFY 2005, the Ombudsman Program received 6,779 complaints.

Ombudsmen resolved 94% of complaints in SFY 2005.

Residents' rights (privacy, freedom from abuse, etc.) and care issues accounted for almost 60% of the complaints received by ombudsmen in SFY 2005.

Another large percentage of complaints received by ombudsmen focused on quality of life issues (good food, pleasant environment, etc.).

Types of Complaints



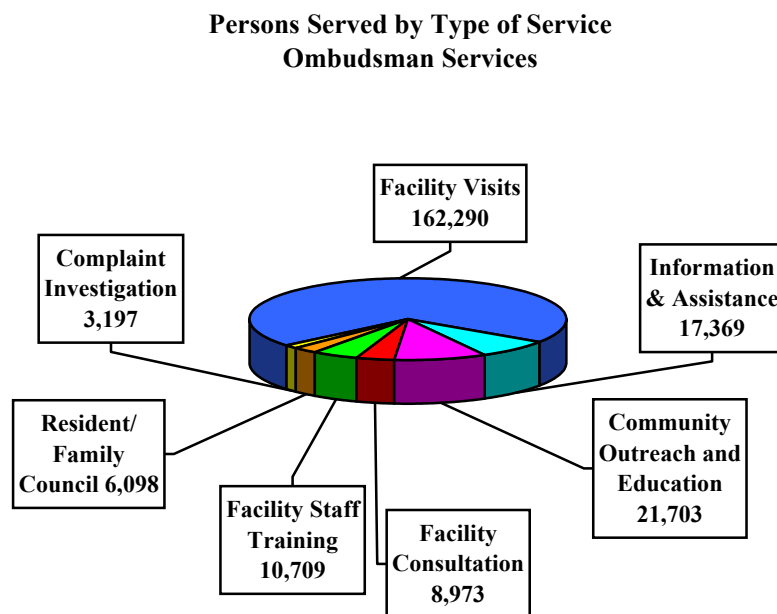
Persons Served

In SFY 2005:

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program served 230,224 persons.

Seventy percent (70%) of these individuals were served during ombudsman visits to facilities.

Over 17,000 individuals received information and assistance regarding long-term care options, public benefits, resident rights, etc.



Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

Promoted Quality Improvement in Nursing Homes

- ✓ Ombudsmen, together with Georgia Medical Care Foundation (GMCF), regulators, other consumer advocates, and providers worked to promote quality in Georgia's nursing homes. Goals included reducing pressure ulcers, improving pain management, and reducing the use of physical restraints. Ombudsmen were also involved in promoting "culture change" in nursing homes, focusing on resident-directed care practices.

Recognized Best Practices in Personal Care Homes

- ✓ The Office of the State Ombudsman helped select and celebrate personal care home "best practices" as part of an initiative sponsored by the Office of Regulatory Services and personal care home provider associations. Facility operators were recognized for creative and successful ways to provide activities and promote resident health and independence.

Advocated for Resident Safety

- ✓ The Ombudsman Program convened a multi-agency workgroup to focus on the issue of registered sex offenders living in Georgia's long-term care facilities. Ombudsmen coordinated the sharing of information among agencies and providers in order to better protect the rights and safety of residents.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) provides useful part-time community service assignments and training for unemployed low income older Georgians and helps them obtain paid employment. While participants develop job-related skills and earn minimum wage, the community directly benefits from the work they perform.

Putting a Face on SCSEP



Ada Lee is a 69 year-old widow. Her only income was a small Social Security check. Because of her lack of marketable job skills, her need for appropriate clothing, and her lack of confidence, she had poor employment prospects. Through the SCSEP she was assigned as an aide in a day care program, became a Certified Nursing Assistant and was hired by a hospital in her community.

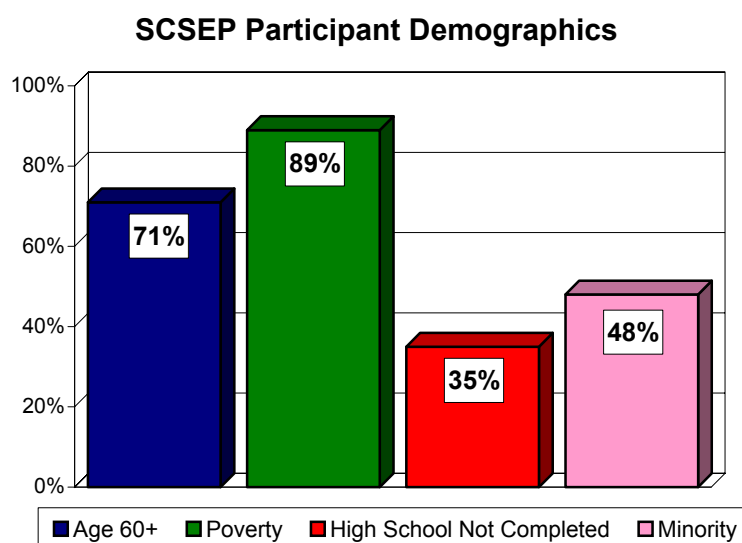
Persons Served

Although participants can be as young as 55 years of age, 71% were over age 60.

Eighty-nine percent of persons enrolled had incomes below the federal poverty level.

Thirty-five percent of current enrollees did not complete high school.

Forty-eight percent of enrollees were minorities.

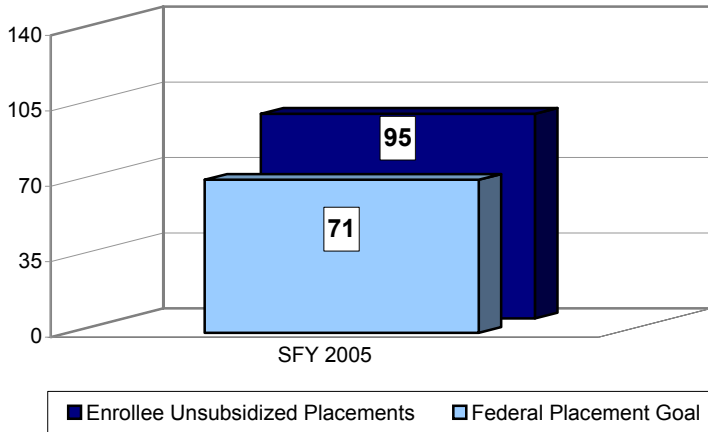


Examples of Outstanding Accomplishments

- ✓ Achieved a 35% job placement rate, exceeding the federal requirement of 26%
- ✓ Achieved a 184% total enrollment rate, exceeding federal requirement of 175%
- ✓ Achieved an 84% job retention rate, exceeding the federal requirement of 50%

Participant Benefits

Enrollees Placed into Employment



In SFY 2005:

500 older persons received "on the job training"

Participants earned wages estimated at \$1.4 million while working in community service positions

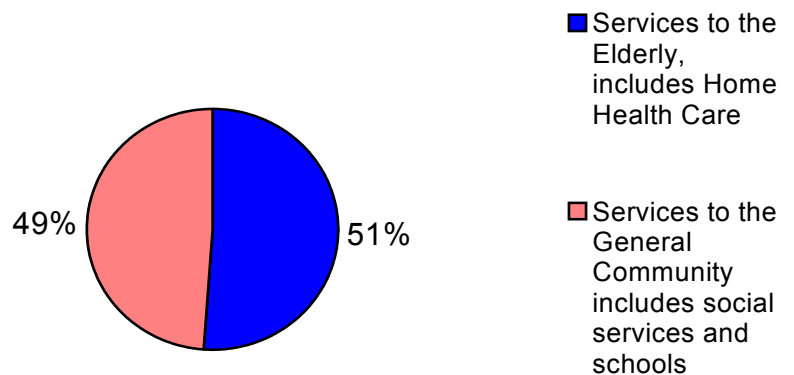
Community Benefits

Participant wages contribute to the local economy and reduce dependence on public benefits programs.

Participants provided over 257,000 hours of service to community organizations.

The most common job assignments were in organizations providing services to the elderly, followed by social service programs and schools.

Service Provision by Location SFY 2005



Directions for the Future

Increase opportunities for job skills training and employment through:

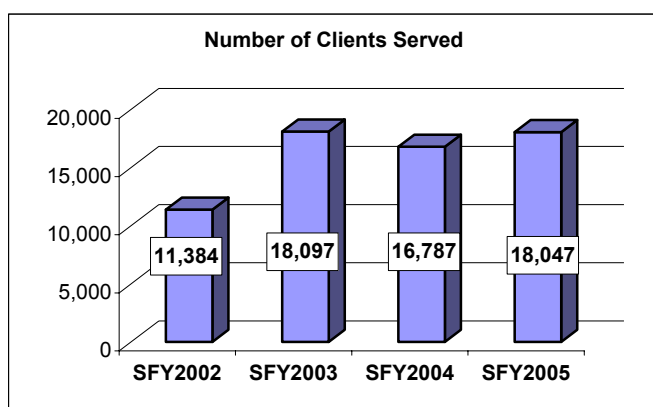
- ✓ Partnerships with other workforce development agencies, programs and employers
- ✓ Recruitment strategies and materials that target older job seekers who are most in need with poor employment prospects

The Wellness Program

GA DHR-Division of Aging Services and the Aging Network

"Living Longer, Living Well" - The Wellness Program is aimed at increasing the ability of older adults to perform everyday activities and remain living in their own homes. Activities are focused on health promotion and disease prevention. Services are designed to improve health status, increase functional abilities, promote safety at home, avoid or delay problems caused by chronic diseases and enhance quality of life.

Profile of Persons Served in SFY 2005



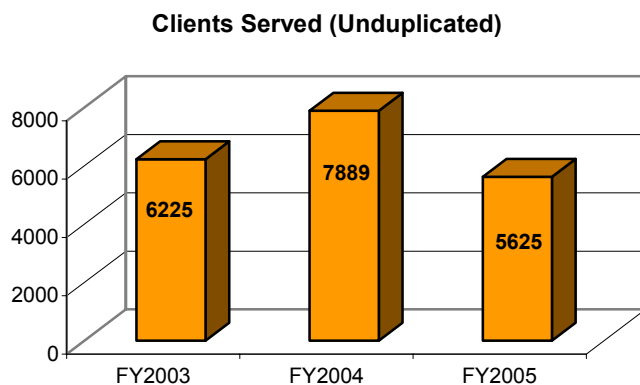
A total of 18,047 clients (unduplicated count) were served in SFY 2005. A statewide sampling revealed that the average age of program participants was 77.

Services Provided

Wellness services include: nutrition screening/education/counseling; physical fitness activities such as walking, gardening, PACE Program, strength training, yoga, Tai Chi, aquatics; safety programs such as fall prevention, drivers education/safety and home safety inspections; life style management, health screenings, physical therapy, occupational therapy, stress management and education awareness events/activities for the prevention and management of chronic diseases.

Medications Management and Impacts

In its fifth year of operation, 5,625 individuals were served in the medications management program. There is close coordination with the GeorgiaCares Program due to changes in Medicare Part D. The program informs older adults about taking medicines correctly, keeping a personal medications list, proper drug storage, preventing overmedication, appropriate supplementation and avoiding adverse drug interactions.



Physical Activity Programs and Impacts

Across the state, various physical activity programs were planned and implemented as part of Wellness Program activities. The Wellness Program Coordinators partnered with Parks and Recreation, AARP Georgia and local Health Departments in planning and providing physical activities at senior centers. More than 2000 program participants participated in various Physical Activities Programs. The Wellness Program Coordinators administered the Fullerton Fitness Test (to measure strength, flexibility and balance) on 537 older adults participating in various Physical Activity Programs. The test results indicated that 422 persons maintained or improved physical fitness parameters for strength, balance and/or flexibility in SFY 2005. The Customer Satisfaction Surveys completed indicated that 87% of program participants were satisfied with Wellness Program activities.

Program Milestones and Accomplishments

The Division of Aging Services partnered with AARP Georgia to promote physical activity programs such as walking programs at senior centers across the state. The AARP Georgia is also a supporter of the annual Healthy Aging Summit.

The Division partnered with the Division of Public Health to implement the “People with Arthritis Can Exercise” evidenced based program (PACE) at several senior centers. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funding was made available for training and implementation of the program. Several Wellness Program Coordinators participated in the PACE Training Program.

The Division, in partnership with public/private sector agencies, hosted the 8th annual Healthy Aging Summit in June 2005. About 300 health care professionals attended the conference.

Georgia was one of twelve states to receive a grant from the Aging for Health Care Resources and Quality/AoA to attend training entitled “Evidence Based Disability and Disease Prevention for Elders: Translating Research into Community Based Programs”. The event was convened in Chicago on December 6-7, 2004 and five individuals from Georgia attended this meeting, representing the Division of Aging Services, Division of Public Health, Area Agency on Aging, Department of Community Health and a service provider.

Future Directions and Opportunities

- ✓ Increase partnerships with the Division of Public Health, Georgia Diabetes Coalition, CDC, FDA, Georgia Osteoporosis Initiative, Georgia Commission on Women, hospitals and other public/private sector agencies to expand wellness program activities and resources.
- ✓ Establish a Healthy Aging Task Force in Georgia.
- ✓ Work towards developing a comprehensive healthy aging plan for Georgia.
- ✓ Coordinate efforts with DFCS, DPH and USDA to improve access to fruits and vegetables for older adults.

Department of Human Resources

Service Areas

